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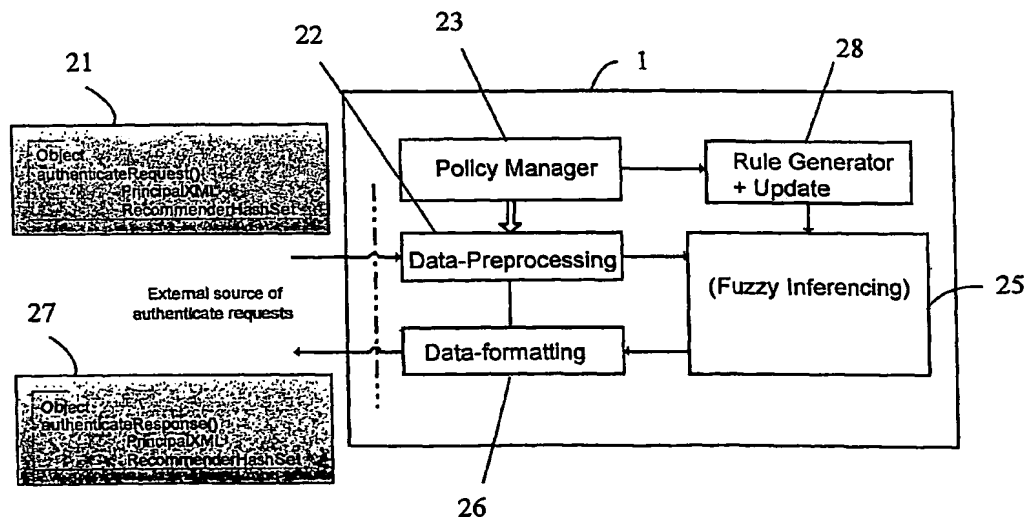
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**(54) Title:** METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AUTHENTICATING A USER



**(57) Abstract:** A method and system of authenticating the identity of a person is disclosed which involves obtaining a value representing an overall degree of trust that the user is who he or she claims to be. A plurality of values are obtained from different authentication sources. By combining the values using fuzzy inference rules, an authentication system which is more easily adapted to new sources of authentication information is provided. In one embodiment the authentication sources are software agent programs.

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